

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
T3392-000000

Total Pages in this Submission
39

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING CONTAMINATES FROM THE AIR IN A MAIL-SORTING ROOM

and invented by:

William R. LEHMAN

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having Twenty-Four (24) pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
T3392-000000

Total Pages in this Submission
39

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
a. ☒ Formal b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets Three (3)
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
a. ☒ Newly executed *(original or copy)* ☐ Unexecuted
b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
c. ☐ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche
7. ☐ Genetic Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
a. ☐ Paper Copy
b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☒ Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & documents)*
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. ☐ English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☐ Certificate of Mailing
☐ First Class ☐ Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* _____

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
T3392-000000

Total Pages in this Submission
39

Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. ☒ Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: _____
17. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below)*:

Petition to Make Special Under 37 CFR Section 1.102(d) (with check to cover government fee)

Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

18. ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
T3392-000000

Total Pages in this Submission
39

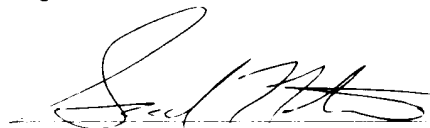
Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	37	- 20 =	17	x \$9.00	\$153.00
Indep. Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x \$42.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$370.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$523.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$523.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-1165 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: December 17, 2001


Signature

Samuel W. Ntiros
Reg. No. 39,318
MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833

cc:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

J1017 U.S. PTO
10/015583
12/17/01

In re patent application of :
LEHMAN, William R. :
Serial No. To Be Assigned : Examiner:
Filed: December 17, 2001 : Group Art Unit:
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING CONTAMINATES FROM THE AIR
IN A MAIL SORTING ROOM

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 CFR § 1.102(d)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 17, 2001

Sir:

Applicants petition to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.102(d). In order to make an application special to thereby warrant its expedited consideration in the Office, the following requirements must be satisfied:

- (1) A petition requesting the Office to make the application special must be filed.
- (2) The petition fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(h) must be paid.
- (3) The application must relate to one of the types of inventions set forth in MPEP § 708.02, or alternatively one of the situations recognized in this section of the Manual must apply.

Applicants submit that the filing of this paper and the attached check satisfy the first two requirements. Applicants respectfully submit that the third requirement is also satisfied.

Under MPEP § 708.02, Section XI, a petition to make special is proper if the application relates to an invention for countering terrorism. The above-identified application discloses and claims an invention of this type. More specifically, in the Background of the Invention section the application observes that, especially of late, the mail has been used as a weapon of terrorism by both domestic and foreign enemies. For example, terrorists have sent biological pathogens in letters to unwitting recipients. This has resulted in the infection of not only the recipients but also mail personnel who handled the letters. This contamination


arose either through direct contact with the letters or through cross-contamination resulting from the pathogens becoming airborne. Under the current practices in both public and private mail rooms, security measures to protect against infection through cross-contamination is lacking at best.

The invention claimed and disclosed in the above-identified application solves this problem. In one embodiment of the invention, a sealed mail sorting room is provided with an internal sorting table and a vacuum unit. The vacuum unit suctions air through an air inlet to create a downwardly directed flow of air which wipes airborne contaminants into a filter, which may be a HEPA filter removes particles on the order of 0.3 microns or larger. A mail cleaning device may also be located in the sorting room to clean the mail before sorting. This cleaning device creates its own separate high-velocity air flow for removing contaminants from individual pieces of mail. The invention may be considered to be an indispensable tool in protecting mail room workers and recipients from infection due to cross-contamination effects.

Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements of MPEP § 708.02 have been satisfied, and that therefore making the above-identified application special under 37 CFR § 1.102(d) is proper.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (Attorney Docket No: T3392-000000) and please credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

Miles & Stockbridge, LLP
1751 Pinnacle Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone No: (703) 903-9000
Facsimile No: (703) 610-8686